

PROCLAMATION
BY THE
Governor of the State of Texas

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14 of the Constitution of Texas,
I hereby veto House Bill 1776 because of the following objections:

This bill would exempt from the definition of a "bet" an offer of merchandise worth more than \$25.00 when made by the owner of a "bona fide carnival contest". This definition makes it possible for virtually any contest to so qualify and thus escape prosecution and opens the door for unscrupulous operators to conduct questionable activities in this state.

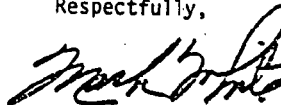
Though proposed and enacted with the best intentions, this bill could seriously threaten the protections afforded citizens of our State by allowing unscrupulous operators to operate fraudulent and dishonest games.

As a whole, the bill is vague as to its coverage and would seriously hamper the efforts of law enforcement officials to prosecute those persons who run dishonest, weighted or other illegal gambling operations.

Such legislation would have the effect of legalizing a form of gambling that would not be in the State's best interest and would be detrimental to the well-being of our citizens.

Therefore, I veto H.B. 1776.

Respectfully,



Mark White
Governor of Texas

Myra A. McDaniel
Secretary of State